

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Medical Resources

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Physical standards were the same for commissioned officers and enlisted men in the USSR in 1943. Exemptions from military service were granted in cases of trachoma, hernia, loss of a hand, loss of the index finger and the third finger of the right hand. Mentally deficient persons were not inducted. Visual deficiencies were not given as much importance in the Soviet military services as they are in the US. In cases of venereal diseases, the patient was hospitalized and treated. He was drafted after a cure had been effected. Physical standards varied, however, with induction into the Soviet Air Force and Soviet Navy. the physical requirements of these services were much more rigid.

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two military schools. One was an artillery school in Odessa and the other was the School of the Supreme Council - First Guardian Military School (for general officers' training) in Moscow. Medical care for students was at approximately the same level in both institutions. The hospital at Odessa, for instance, contained about 50 beds and took care of the medical needs of four thousand students. The staff consisted of one doctor (a Lt Col), three

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

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50X1 medical feldshers, one dental feldsher, and an undetermined number of nurses
 50X1 and orderlies. The equipment was not elaborate but the building was very
 50X1 clean and the medical care, fair by US standards. Students were immunized
 50X1 here yearly against typhoid, typhus, smallpox, and diphtheria.

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military hospitals

at Chervlennaya, at Derbent on the Caspian Sea, and at Kirov-Abad.

a field hospital in a village near Chervlennaya

The library building had been commandeered and about 100 critically wounded men were interned temporarily there. There were no beds, only straw to make a softer floor covering and one nurse to care for the entire group.

in Derbent. The local high school had been remodeled to serve as a hospital and contained about 300 beds. The staff consisted of two doctors, two medical feldshers, the local dentist, and an insufficient number of nurses to care for the patients. there were about 20 patients to a room with only one nurse on duty. Sometimes the nurse would be responsible for 40 patients. the medical care in this hospital was not good. For instance, in the dressing of wounds, soiled bandages were allowed to remain unchanged for as long as three days. Soiled tourniquets and bandages were not discarded after use, but were laundered and reused. the only

medication prescribed in treating wounds was the application of a yellow, odorless salve whose trade name was Revanol. The shrapnel wound

hand and arm was treated with Revanol and then wrapped in gauze. the equipment in the Derbent

hospital is hazy and inaccurate. The hospital apparently did not have X-ray equipment was transferred to the military hospital in Kirov-Abad, on the road between Tbilisi and Baku, for X-raying. The local hospital in Kirov-Abad had been converted into a military unit and accommodated about 150 beds. There were three doctors, two or three medical feldshers and some nurses on duty. So great was the need for nurses that local women were drafted into service after a short course in practical nursing. there was more medical equipment in the

Kirov-Abad hospital than in the Derbent hospital, but the same low level of medical care was maintained. were X-rayed in the Kirov-Abad hospital. The piece of shrapnel was found to be lodged in such a position that its removal by the cutting of ligaments and nerves in the wounded area would be prejudicial to the full recovery

The doctor therefore refused to operate in the absence of equipment to remove the shrapnel without extensive surgery. The wound healed uneventfully, however, with no further treatment and fully regained the use

4.

the place named Vnukovo in the vicinity of Dmitrov, but is located about 30 kilometers southwest of Moscow. As late as 1941 there was only one ambulatoria in Astrakhan which was staffed by a doctor and a medical feldsher. Office hours extended from 9 to 12 M and 1 to 5 PM and treatment was free. Prescriptions were filled at the local

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50X1 drugstore and patients had to pay for the medicines. There were also a
 50X1 maternity poliklinik and a general hospital of about 50 beds in Astrak-
 50X1 hanka.

5.

50X1 Neither Astrakhanka nor Dmitrov had a central water works. The central air-
 50X1 port of Moscow and an Air Force paratroop base were located in Vnukovo.

50X1 there was a central water works serving this locality.

6.

50X1

50X1 Vnukovo had an underground sewerage system and a central disposal plant.
 50X1 There was no underground sewerage in Astrakhanka. Outhouses were used
 50X1 and human excreta were buried in the soil. There was a central sewerage
 50X1 system in the heart of Dmitrov, but on the outskirts of the town, out-
 50X1 houses were used. approximately one-third of the houses
 and buildings in Dmitrov were served by the central system.

7.

50X1

There was a typhus epidemic in Bryansk in 1931 and a very large percentage
 of the population was affected. cannot recall the occurrence of any
 50X1 other epidemic in this section of the Ukraine from this period through
 50X1 1944. There was, however, a very high mortality rate among children due
 50X1 to diphtheria. After 1931, school children were inoculated against
 50X1 typhus, typhoid and smallpox. There were no cases of poliomyelitis

in any of the sections of the USSR In

50X1

fact, never heard of the disease in epidemic form
 50X1 would consider dysentery to be endemic in the USSR because of
 50X1 the low sanitary standards throughout the country.

8.

50X1

50X1 Prior to World War II the organization, Osobaya Voenavaya Anti-Chimicheskaya
 50X1 Podgotovka (Ocobuaxum), was charged with the responsibility of instructing
 50X1 the civilian population in defense measures against chemical warfare. In-
 50X1 struction was given in ways of recognizing German aircraft, in detecting
 50X1 poisonous chemicals, and in the use of gas masks. Prior to World War II,
 50X1 instruction was not obligatory except for high school students and
 50X1 the emphasis was quite strong at this level. This was the state of
 50X1 affairs in Astrakhanka and the same applied to other areas of
 50X1 the USSR.

50X1 During World War II Ocobuaxum was most probably taken over by MPVO.

50X1

50X1 this service
 50X1 was greatly strengthened and its operation put under the jurisdiction of
 50X1 the police. while instruction in CW defense
 50X1 and first aid was adequate, there was an insufficient supply of gas masks
 50X1 and other equipment to meet the immediate needs of the civilian population.
 50X1 in Moscow, for instance, what few measures were being taken
 50X1 against air attack during World War II. Black-outs were effective and the
 50X1 Kremlin, Red Square, Government buildings and residences were camouflaged,
 but there were no air raid shelters except the subways.

9.

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50X1 [redacted] one doctor (captain) and one medical feldsher
(lieutenant) serviced three thousand military personnel. Each regiment had
50X1 a doctor (captain) and a medical feldsher (Lieutenant) in its organizational
50X1 structure. The lieutenant was in command of a medical platoon consisting
of 20 medics and a few female nurses. There was no difference between the
50X1 number of medical personnel assigned to a given number of military personnel
during peacetime and wartime. There might have been one exception to the
foregoing statement. During peacetime, the workload might have been less
on medical personnel connected with a permanent military camp which had
the facilities of a local hospital available.

10. [redacted]
11. [redacted]
12. [redacted]

50X1 [redacted] not aware of any special instructions to Soviet officers who were
designated as interrogators other than language training in the case of
50X1 army and artillery officers. Certain questions were to be asked, to be
sure, but [redacted] know of no confession techniques being advocated. Paratroop
50X1 officers, for instance, were told to get information at all costs from
prisoners of war. The rigor of questioning therefore depended entirely
on the character and make-up of the interrogating officer.

- end -

50X1 [redacted]

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